

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:
posting an electronic form which displays criteria for infringement of a particular patent and accepts first user input to identify an infringement target and second user input to describe how the infringement target meets the criteria.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic form comprises a plurality of input boxes to accept the second user input.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein each of the plurality input boxes is associated with a respective one of the criteria.
4. The method of claim 2 wherein the electronic form has a plurality of display portions each to display a respective one of the criteria, and wherein each of the plurality of input boxes is positioned adjacent to one of the plurality of display portions to receive a portion of the second user input which describes how the infringement target meets the respective one of the criteria.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the display portions are arranged in a first column of the electronic form, and wherein the input boxes are arranged in a second column of the electronic form.
6. The method of claim 4 wherein the criteria comprises a plurality of claim limitations, and wherein each of the claim limitations is associated with one of the plurality of display portions is associated with one of the plurality of input boxes.
7. The method of claim 2 wherein the electronic form comprises an input box to accept the first user input.

8. The method of claim 2 wherein each of the plurality of input boxes is to receive natural language textual input.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic form comprises a Web form.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the infringement target is identified by a product name in the first user input.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the infringement target is identified by a company name in the first user input.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving an infringement submission made by a user via the electronic form; and
evaluating the infringement submission based on the first user input and the
second user input.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said evaluating is performed by a patent attorney.

14. The method of claim 12 further comprising:
compensating the user if the infringement submission is evaluated to be a first-
received on-point submission for the infringement target.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein said compensating the user is conditioned on a deal with the infringement target.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein said compensating the user comprises providing the user a fixed fee.

17. The method of claim 14 wherein said compensating the user comprises providing the user a fee commensurate with compensation from a deal with the infringement target.

18. The method of claim 12 further comprising:
recording a date and a time associated with the infringement submission.
19. The method of claim 18 further comprising:
sending, to the user, a message to acknowledge receipt of the infringement
submission, the message indicating the date and the time associated with
the infringement submission.
20. The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic form is posted on an intranet.
21. The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic form is posted on the Internet.
22. The method of claim 1 wherein the second user input comprises graphical
input.
23. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
translating the criteria from a first language to a second language;
wherein the criteria is displayed in the second language.
24. An article comprising:
a computer-readable medium having stored thereon an electronic form to display
criteria for infringement of a particular patent and to accept first user input
to identify an infringement target and second user input to describe how
the infringement target meets the criteria.
25. The article of claim 24 wherein the electronic form comprises a plurality of
input boxes to accept the second user input.
26. The article of claim 25 wherein each of the plurality of input boxes is
associated with a respective one of the criteria.

27. The article of claim 25 wherein the electronic form has a plurality of display portions each to display a respective one of the criteria, and wherein each of the plurality of input boxes is adjacent to one of the plurality of display portions to receive a portion of the second input that describes how the infringement target meets the respective one of the criteria.

28. The article of claim 27 wherein the plurality of display portions are arranged in a first column of the electronic form, and wherein the plurality of input boxes are arranged in a second column of the electronic form.

29. The article of claim 27 wherein the criteria comprises a plurality of claim limitations, and wherein each of the claim limitations has an associated one of the plurality of display portions and an associated one of the plurality of input boxes.

30. The article of claim 25 wherein the electronic form comprises an input box to accept the first user input.

31. The article of claim 25 wherein each of the plurality of input boxes is to receive natural language textual input.

32. The article of claim 24 wherein the electronic form comprises a Web form.

33. The article of claim 24 wherein the second user input comprises graphical input.

34. The article of claim 24 wherein the criteria is translated from a first language to a second language.